Exhibit A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MAGGIE MCNAMARA, Plaintiff CIVIL ACTION - LAW

-VS-

NO. 3:17-CV-2182-MEM

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, et al,

Defendants

ROBERT STOUD,
Plaintiff

CIVIL ACTION - LAW

-VS-

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, et al.,

Defendants.

NO. 3:17-CV-2183-MEM

DEPOSITION TESTIMONY OF

ALAN M. HALL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018

MAZZONI KARAM PETORAK & VALVANO 321 SPRUCE STREET SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

KATHLEEN HUGHES COURT REPORTER

KEYSTONE COURT REPORTING AGENCY, INC. 4099 BIRNEY AVENUE, SUITE 9 MOOSIC, PA 18507 (570) 558-3011 (800) 570-3773 FAX (570) 558-3014

COUNSEL PRESENT:

On behalf of the Plaintiff:

MAZZONI KARAM PETORAK & VALVANO BY: GERARD M. KARAM, ESQ. 321 Spruce Street Scranton, PA 18503

On behalf of the Defendant:

KREDER BROOKS & HAILSTONE BY: JAMES HAILSTONE, ESQ. 220 Penn Avenue, Suite 200 Scranton, PA 18503

STIPULATIONS

It was agreed by and between counsel that all objections, except as to the form of the question, will be reserved until the time of trial.

It was further agreed that the reading, signing, sealing and filing of the deposition transcript will be waived.

INDEX OF WITNESSES

EXAM]	[NA]	<u> </u>										PAG	ìΕ	<u>NUMB</u>	ER
ALAN	Μ.	HALL,	COMM	1IS	SIC	DNE	ΞR								
BV	Mr	. Karan	n.										3		

	3	
1	ALAN M. HALL, COMMISSIONER,	
2	WAS CALLED, AND HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN,	
3	WAS EXAMINED AND TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:	
4	COURT REPORTER: Usual stipulations,	
5	counsel?	
6	MR. HAILSTONE: Yes.	
7	MR. KARAM: Yes.	
8		
9	EXAMINATION BY MR. KARAM:	
10	Q. Would you please state your name for	
11	the record?	
12	A. Alan M. Hall.	
13	Q. And how are you currently employed?	
14	A. I'm the Chairman of the County	
15	Commissioners of Susquehanna County, plus I'm	
16	self-employed.	
17	Q. Do you mind if I call you Commissioner	
18	for today?	
19	A. Whatever you want to do.	
20	Q. How are you self-employed?	
21	A. I'm a Real Estate Agent.	
22	Q. And if you had to put a split on the	
23	time you spend as Commissioner and Real Estate Agent,	
24	what would that be?	
25	A. Probably about 75/25.	

4 Seventy-five Commissioner? 1 Q. 2 Α. Yep. Could you give us your educational 3 Q. background? 4 I have a four year Business Degree from 5 Α. Wilkes University. 6 And how about your work history? 7 0. I worked many jobs through my career. 8 Α. I was self-employed at thirteen to Universal 9 Instruments Corporation where I was Manager of 10 Manufacturing Facilities, and also Manager of 11 Production and Inventory Control. 12 And then from where did you go? 13 Universal, I went to a company called 14 Α. Red's Garage, I was Manager of his Towing and 15 Recovery Operation, heavy equipment. And from there 16 I went into the transportation field with Holmes 17 Transportation, I was a driver and dispatcher for 18 them, they went out business. I went to work for 19 Yellow Freight, I was a driver, dispatcher, morning 2.0 manager, and then they merged with Roadway and I 2.1 retired from there. 2.2 And then ran for office? 23 0. Then ran for office. 24 Α. Did you run individually or as a team 25 Q.

	5
1	with somebody?
2	A. Individually.
3	Q. And have you run individually every
4	time?
5	A. Every time.
6	Q. When were you first elected?
7	A. 2012 I think.
8	Q. And when you were elected in 2012, who
9	were the other Commissioners in Susquehanna County?
10	A. The ones that were elected at that time
11	were Maryann Warren, she was the Democrat; Mike
12	Giangrecco, he was the Republican.
13	Q. And how would you characterize your
14	governing style, did you work as a team or was it
15	party rule governing?
16	A. I would say most generally it was as a
17	team.
18	Q. Have you ever given a deposition
19	before?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. When?
22	A. I can't recall, it was few years ago on
23	a case involving Clean and Green.
24	Q. Was it as a Commissioner
25	A. Yes.

				6
1		Q.	that you gave the deposition?	
2		Α.	Yes.	
3		Q.	Did you prepare for your deposition	
4	here to	oday at	all?	
5		Α.	No.	
6		Q.	Did you speak with anybody prior to	
7	coming	for th	ne deposition?	
8		Α.	Just my attorney.	
9		Q.	And who is your attorney?	
10		Α.	Jamie.	
11		Q.	And did you review any documents?	
12		Α.	No.	
13		Q.	Do you know Steve Stoud?	
14		Α.	Yes.	
15		Q.	And how do you know Steve?	
16		Α.	He was an employee at the County. I	
17	was one	e of th	ne individuals that hired him.	,
18		Q.	Tell me about how Steve was hired?	
19		Α.	He was hired, we had an issue in our	
20	911 EO	C not k	being efficient and not being managed	
21	proper	Ly. We	e were looking for a Public Safety	
22	Directo	or and	his name came up, we interviewed him	and
23	hired h	nim for	that position.	
24		Q.	And what year would that have been?	
25.		А.	I can't recall. I mean, it's got to	be

7 '14, '15; '13 maybe. 1 2. It was during your first term? Q. 3 Α. It was during my first term, yes. And what has your working relationship 4 Q. 5 been like with Steve since you hired him? 6 Α. Redefine that please? 7 Well, do you have any -- during your Q. 8 term as Commissioner and Steve's employment with the 9 County, did you have any problems with Steve? 10 Did I personally, no. Α. 11 Q. Did you have any problems with his work 12 product? 13 Α. With his product, no, I did not. 14 0. Do you know Maggie McNamara? 15 Yes, I do. Α. 16 How do you know Maggie McNamara? Ο. 17 She was an employee of the County. Α. And were you involved in her hiring? 18 0. 19 Well, County Commissioners always are Α. 20 involved in the hiring except for another elected 21 official, so everything has to get finally approved 22 by the County Commissioners. 23 Did you interview her? 0. 24 Α. My recollection is that I did not 25 interview her, that was done by Steve and probably

8 the HR Director at the time. 1 During your term as Commissioner, did 2 Ο. you have or witness any problems with Maggie 3 McNamara's work product? 4 The only thing that I can recall is the 5 Α. issues that the Commissioners had with the Agenda and 6 the punctuation or substance of the Agenda. 7 Why don't you describe who had the 8 problems and what the problems were? 9 Well, it was the other Commissioners, 10 Α. the other two Commissioners --11 Who were? Ο. 12 Commissioner Warren and Commissioner 13 Α. Arnold were the ones that basically reviewed the 14 Agendas and looked for things that they felt weren't 15 correct as far as typos or substances that weren't 16 correct, that's something I didn't really pay that 17 much attention to. 18 You didn't believe it to be 19 0. significant? 2.0 Well, my management style was 21 Α. I didn't worry about crossing the t's and different. 2.2 dotting the i's. I was worried about keeping the 23 wheels on the bus. 24 So other than that, you had no problem

25

Q.

9 with Maggie McNamara's work product? 1 Α. No, I did not. 2. How about Richard Ely, do you know him? Q. 3 Α. Yes. 4 Tell me, how do you know him? 5 Q. He was hired as the HR Director at Α. 6 Susquehanna County. 7 And who was involved in the interview 8 Q. process in hiring him? 9 That was the Commissioners. 1.0 Α. You being one? 11 Ο. Yes. Α. 12 Was Steve Stoud involved in the Q. 13 interviewing process? 14 I can't remember if he was or not. 15 Α. I can't remember the time he was hired versus Steve, 16 but if he had been there, he probably would have 17 18 been. And what was he hired as? 19 0. HR Director. 2.0 Α. So can you tell me as Commissioner, 21 Ο. what are the duties of the HR Director? 2.2 Well, at Susquehanna County it was a 23 Α. little bit different than most places. But basically 2.4 it was taking care of people's medical, making sure 25

And what was your understanding of what

24

25

were.

Q.

Mr. Stoud's findings were?

1.5

A. That there was an incident in the office where he had been hugging. And apparently there was one lady that came in the office from vote register I think she was, came in and hugged and gave Rich a kiss, and then apparently others in the office did partake in the same thing.

My understanding is that at that point nothing occurred in the office except maybe the look at each other between McNamara and Ely. But then he apparently went to the parking lot, and my understanding was, he tapped on the window, she rolled the window down, and at that point he offered to -- my understanding, I think it was to give her a Christmas wish or kiss or whatever on the cheek or whatever, and my understanding was that she said no, and backed away and he backed away and that was the end of it.

- Q. And was there a finding by the Commissioners as to whether this amounted to harassment?
- A. There was a finding by the Commissioners that it was --well, I guess a type of harassment you would call it, that it was an act of unwanted gesture that the Commissioners deemed was

12 not appropriate. 1 And did Mr. Ely, did he acknowledge 2 Q. that it was not appropriate? 3 Yes, I do recall that he did write a 5 letter of response acknowledging that what he did was 6 not right, he shouldn't have done it, yes. 7 And did Mr. Stoud make any Ο. recommendations regarding discipline of Mr. Ely? 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 What was his recommendation? Ο. His recommendation at the time, he felt 11 Α. that Mr. Ely needed to be let go for the incident. 12 And what did the Commissioners 13 0. conclude? 14 15 The Commissioners concluded that the infraction at that time, that as a group of 16 Commissioners that he was going to be given a Final 17 Written Warning, that the incident was not 18 appropriate and any further types of incidents of any 19 20 kind would lead to his termination. And was that a unanimous decision of 21 Ο. 22 the Commissioner? I would say -- I would say no. 23 24 What was the vote, how did the vote 0. 25 break down?

was created by our Labor Attorney and came back to

2.4

25

Α.

It was a Formal Written Warning that

14 our Chief Clerk which was Mr. Stoud to administer. 1 And was that placed in his personnel 0. 2 3 file then? Α. Yes. 4 And it still would be there? 5 Q. I would hope. Α. 6 And during your time as Commissioner, 7 0. was there a Chain of Command Policy that was 8 instituted ever? 9 Well, yeah, there's always been a Chain 10 Α. of Command with the County. 11 And why don't you tell me what that is? 12 Well, The Chain of Command is that 13 Α. everybody if supposed to -- if there's an issue, 14 they're supposed to work with their Immediate 15 Supervisor and work up the ladder. If they have an 16 issue, they go to their Supervisor, if that's a 1.7 problem, then they to go their Manager, if that 18 doesn't get resolved, on up to Chief Clerk, and then 19 to the County Commissioners. And vice versa, if the 20 Commissioners need something, they go to whoever 21 reports directly to the Commissioners and they're 22 supposed to handle it down through. 23 So when it comes to the Commissioners, 24 Q. if there is an issues, who are the Commissioners 25

15 supposed to go to? 1 2 Α. I'm sorry? So if there is an issue within the 3 County that the Commissioners want to investigate or 4 have a question on, how are the Commissioners 5 supposed to handle that situation? 6 They go to whoever the direct report is 7 Α. to the Commissioners, if it's the --8 Would that be the Chief of Staff? 0. 9 The Chief Clerk, depending on how it Α. 10 was split up at the time. We did have the Chief 11 Clerk reported to the County Commissioner at one 12 point and the Public Safety Director reported, so it 13 depends on whose department it was. 14 And is it appropriate for a 1.5 Ο. Commissioner to go to an employee that may have two 16 or three Supervisors above him, would it be 17 appropriate for a Commissioner to go directly to that 18 19 employee? Well, they can. I mean, they don't 20 Α. have to follow the Chain of Command. I mean, they 21 are a Commissioner, they can pretty much do what they 22 2.3 want. Would it be appropriate? 24 Q. Well, I guess it depends on who you're 25 Α.

16 1 asking. I'm asking you? Q. 2 Well, me, I wouldn't do that. I would 3 Α. go to the person that I should be going to which 4 would be the Chief Clerk. 5 Commissioner Arnold came in what year? 6 Ο. '16, '17. She started the beginning of Α. 7 '16 maybe. 8 Did there become issues with regard to 9 Ο. the Commissioner Chain of Command with Commissioner 10 Arnold? 11 Yes. Α. 12 Can you tell me about that? Ο. 13 Well, she was notorious of going to Α. 14 employees directly and not going to Supervisors or 15 Department Heads or the Chief clerk. 16 And was she ever warned against doing 17 this? 18 Α. Yes. 19 Who would warn her against doing this? 20 Ο. There was actually -- I did as the Α. 21 Chairman of the Commissioners after talking to the 22 other Commissioner Warren that we agreed that we 23 needed to do something, and also our County Solicitor 24 Giangrecco also gave her a letter. 25

17 What were the instances that led you to 1 0. 2 warn her against behaving this way? The issue I remember is that she went 3 Α. into the Public Safety Department and talking to 4 people in the Public Safety Department that were two 5 or three levels down and talking to them, you know, 6 personnel issues and other issues with the County. 7 And at the time who was the Director of 8 0. Public Safety? 9 10 Α. That was Mr. Stoud. Did you witness any personal issues 11 Q. that Commissioner Arnold may have had with Steve 12 13 Stoud? Personal in what way? 14 Α. 15 Personal animus against him? Ο. Yes, there was said from the beginning 16 Α. that part of what she ran on was the management of 17 18 the County had to go. But isn't that more style than personal 19 0. 20 management style? 21 Α. Her style is how she wants to do 22 things, yeah. But what I'm saying is, did you see a 23 Ο. personal animus that she had against Steve Stoud, she 24 didn't like him? 25

	18
1	A. I would say that's a true statement.
2	Q. Why would you say that's a true
3	statement?
4	A. I am not positive as to the reasons
5	why.
6	Q. And what did you see her do that would
7	lead you to believe that she had a personal animus
8	against Steve Stoud?
9	A. Well, she had made comments to the HR
10	Director that was Sara (sic) at the time that she
11	wanted him fire.
12	Q. And indeed she stated she wanted Maggie
13	McNamara fired as well, isn't that correct?
14	A. That's true.
15	Q. And would this be very early on in her
16	tenure as a Commissioner when this started?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. Was it Commissioner Arnold and
19	Commissioner Warren the ones who were complaining
20	about typos and grammar errors and Maggie McNamara's
21	agenda?
22	A. I would say that's true.
23	Q. Both of them?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. Did you ever have discussions with him,

that hey, look, this isn't that big a deal?

- A. Well, I had discussions with them and I didn't say it wasn't that big a deal. I did have discussions with them to say that they needed to try and meet with Maggie and Steve and work it out and come to a resolution as to the issues and problems, that it wasn't productive in the way things were going.
- Q. Did there come a point in time when Commissioner Warren indicated to you that she wanted to intentionally embarrass Maggie McNamara by exposing these typos and grammar errors?
- A. I would say that the comment was more of, well, if it's not going to get fixed before the meeting, then I'll just bring it up in the meeting then.
- Q. Did she say her intention was to embarrass Maggie at the meeting?
- A. I think the wording was that -- she didn't say that she was intentionally trying to embarrass her. Her comment was, that she would probably be embarrassed if I bring this up at the meeting.
- Q. At that point in time, Maggie
 McNamara's position was of Deputy Chief Clerk, is

2.0 1 that accurate? Α. Yep. 2 And her office was in Commissioners' 3 Q. office? 4 Right. 5 Α. After Rich Ely was disciplined when he Q. 6 was HR Director, did there come a point in time when 7 you moved him? 8 Α. Yes. Where did you move him? Ο. 10 He was moved out -- a Veterans Affairs Α. 11 person was discharged and we needed somebody in our 12 Veterans Affairs, he was a Veteran, so he was 13 qualified, we thought it would be our best fit to 14 move him to our Veterans Affairs office. 15 Why was the Veterans Affairs guy 16 Ο. discharged? 17 I can't remember. He was goofing off, 18 Α. not doing his job. I can't recall. 19 Could it be a sexual harassment against 20 Q. 21 him? 22 Α. Not that one. So Rich went into Veterans Affairs 23 Ο. which is in another building? 24 Was in another building. 25 Α.

21 Was in another building. And then did 0. 1 come a point in time when the Commissioners or one 2 Commissioner or two Commissioners indicated to Maggie 3 McNamara, you have to go over there now and help Rich 4 Ely with Veterans affairs? 5 I don't know what the other 6 Α. Commissioner said. But I remember my conversation 7 was, asked if she would help out and go over and see 8 what is going on over there to make sure our Veterans 9 get taken care of, but I don't know what the other 10 one said. 11 So she went over there? 12 Ο. Yes. 13 Α. Can you describe the Veterans Affairs 14 Q. office? 15 It's in the County Office Building, 16 Α. it's basically two offices in one, there's a back 17 office and a front office. You go through the front 18 office to get to the back office. And basically the 19 clerical person sat in the front and the Veterans 2.0 21 Director sat in the back. And would you describe Maggie's 22 position as the clerical position at that time? 23 No. I would classify her position as 24 Α.

the Deputy Chief Clerk that was over trying to help

25

22 out. 1 But she would be working in a clerical 2 Q. 3 position? She would be working in that area, yes. 4 Α. And you said it was two offices in one? 5 Q. Α. Yeah. 6 So how big of an area was this? 7 Ο. Each office was probably, you know, 8 Α. 9 eight by twelve. So she'd be working right next to Mr. 10 0. 11 Ely? 12 Α. The first office, there was a wall 13 behind her before you went into the office where he 14 was. 15 I'm going to call your attention now to Q. May of 2016, you were the Chairman of the 16 17 Commissioners at point in time, correct? 18 Α. I believe so, yes. And your Solicitor was Mike Giangrecco? 19 Q. 20 Α. Yes. Do you recall Steve Stoud coming to see 21 Q. 2.2 you and explaining that the situation with Commissioner Arnold and Commissioner Warren as it 23 relates to Maggie McNamara and Steve Stoud was 2.4 rapidly deteriorating, in that they felt there was 25

25

2.2

Q. And I don't want to put words in your mouth but I'm going to paraphrase something.

In May of 2016 Steve Stoud goes to you and Mike Giangrecco and says, this situation with the other two Commissioners and Maggie McNamara and Steve Stoud is deteriorating, they claim — they said it was, you're harassing, hostile; you and Mike in turn decide, well, the other two Commissioners need to be brought in on this, is that accurate?

- A. Well, what we said was, they all need to get together to have a conversation to work this out.
- Q. And then they all get together and the meeting turns to, well, how are we going to discipline Maggie McNamara?
- A. No, that is not true. What happened was, there was tried several opportunities to have conversations between all of them but it got to the point where the other two Commissioners that they weren't happy with what was going on, so they decided to have a meeting to talk about the issue with Mr. Stoud and Maggie McNamara.
 - Q. What weren't they happy with?
- A. Well, again, it was all about the agendas, and they had something about Maggie talking

Q.

26 your knowledge, and let's first talk about Maggie 1 McNamara, the only complaints you heard the 2 Commissioners say at this stage against Maggie 3 McNamara was, she made some typos and grammatical 4 errors in agendas -- -5 MR. HAILSTONE: I object to the 6 form. 7 BY MR. KARAM: 8 -- and she spoke gruffly with 9 Q. Supervisors that they would not name? 10 Well, there was more than just that, it 11 Α. was the -- you can talk about the grammatical errors, 12 but there was also the, you know, the wording of the 13 motions that was -- that they believe was an issue. 14 Also, it was the talking to the other Department 15 Heads, but also then there was the issue of Steve and 16 Maggie spending too much time together. 17 And we'll get to that. 0. 18 Α. I'm sure. 19 We'll get to that in a second. 2.0 0. And there were some issues there, I 21 Α. can't remember what they were. 2.2 But for what you just said, they wanted 23 0. to fire Maggie? 24 Α. Yes. 25

27 And they made it clear? 0. 1 2 Α. Yes. Now, let's go to this spending too much 3 Ο. time together. Was it clear to you that at some 4 point in time either Commissioner Arnold, 5 Commissioner Warren or both who were claiming or 6 insinuating that Maggie McNamara and Steve Stoud were 7 having an affair? 8 That was just Commissioner Arnold. 9 Α. And she made it clear to you that she 10 Q. felt they were having an affair? 11 Α. Yes. 12 Were you the only one that she said 13 0. 14 that to? To my knowledge, no. 15 Α. Who else do you believe she said that 16 Q. 17 to? 18 Α. The Solicitor. Mike Giangrecco? 19 Ο. Mike Giangrecco, Jeanne Conklin, who 20 Α. was the HR Director at the time, and I don't know who 21 else but other people in the building knew. 22 And do you believe that Commissioner 2.3 Arnold was using that belief to attempt to fire 24 25 Maggie McNamara and Steve Stoud?

	28
1	A. I don't think so, I think her
2	motivation
3	Q. Was that part of her motivation?
4	A. No, I think her motivation was that she
5	just wanted different people in those offices.
6	Q. What was her reasoning in saying that
7	Steve and Maggie were having an affair?
8	A. I don't know well, she was just
9	saying that they spend too much time in the office
10	and they're always giggling and stuff like that.
11	Q. And did she think that was
12	inappropriate?
13	A. Apparently.
14	Q. Did she ask what were they meeting
15	about?
16	A. You know, she may have. And my
17	response would be: I have no clue, why don't you go
18	ask them.
19	Q. So at this meeting where Arnold and
20	Warren said we want Stoud and McNamara fired, what
21	was your response?
22	A. My response was: I'm not part of this.
23	If you guys want to do this, you're going to do it on
24	your own.
25	I said, at this point I'll go get Mr.

29 If you want to do something with McNamara you 1 -- I said, but at the same time you've got an 2. employee who's never been written up, never had any 3 discipline issues, you know, you can't do it this 4 5 way. And I said, you might want to think 6 about this. And that's when they decided that 7 they're going to do a Written Warning instead of 8 terminating her. And that's when I said: 9 I'm going to get Steve, she works for Steve, she 10 doesn't work for me, I'm not doing this, I'm not 11 getting in the middle of it. 12 Was Mike Giangrecco there at the time? Ο. 13 He was not in the meeting. Α. 14 Was he consulted? Q. 15 I don't know if any of them consulted Α. 16 him or not, I don't believe so, but then again, they 17 may have. 18 At this meeting did Arnold or Warren 19 0. make complaints that Stoud and McNamara are 20 complaining that they were working in a hostile work 21 environment and that they're being harassed? 22 Did Commissioner Warren and 23 Α. Commissioner Arnold say that? 24 Yeah. 25 Q.

30 No. Α. 1 No? Q. 2 No. 3 Α. Did you ever hear Warren or Arnold Q. 4 complain that Stoud was claiming that he was working 5 in a hostile work environment or McNamara? 6 No, I don't think so -- I can't recall. 7 Α. So did there come a point where Stoud 8 Q. was brought into the meeting? 9 Α. Yes. 10 And were you still there? 11 0. Yes. 12 Α. And what happened at the meeting? 13 Ο. Mr. Stoud came in and sat down and I 14 Α. Here he is, tell him what you want to do. told them: 15 And what did they tell him? 0. 16 They both shared that they were not 17 Α. pleased with McNamara's performance and that they 18 wanted her written up. And that there was issues and 19 they went down through some of the issues of the 2.0 spending too much time together, the problems with 21 the agendas, the attitude toward the Department Heads 22 and Elected Officials. 23 And did Commissioner Arnold indicate Q. 24 that people were talking about them? 25

	31
1	A. I don't know if she said it there but
2	she has said that.
3	Q. Do you know who these people were?
4	A. Again, she doesn't tell you who she
5	talks to but she talks to everybody.
6	Q. Do you recall Steve Stoud asking who
7	these people were and Arnold saying, I don't have to
8	tell you?
9	A. I don't recall that. I had heard that
10	but I don't recall it.
11	Q. Do you recall Commissioner Warren or
12	Commissioner Arnold stating to Stoud that it doesn't
13	look good for them to be spending so much time
14	together?
15	A. Ask the question again?
16	Q. Do you recall either Commissioner
17	Arnold or Warren stating to Steve Stoud that it
18	doesn't look good for Stoud and McNamara to be
19	spending so much time together?
20	A. In that meeting?
21	Q. Well, in that meeting or at another
22	time?
23	A. I don't recall hearing the conversation
24	but I do remember either Mr. Stoud or somebody
25	telling me that that conversation existed.

33 1 McNamara were not warranted? 2 Α. Yes. And did they tell him that if he didn't 3 0. address these issues with them that he'd be fired? 4 I don't know if it was exactly worded 5 Α. 6 that way. 7 How was it worded? Q. I can't remember. 8 Α. 9 Q. Well, can you paraphrase it? Well, I think it would be the same with 10 Α. 11 any other employee, if we ask the employee to do something and they refuse a direct order, then yeah, 12 they'd probably lose their job. 13 Did Stoud indicate to them that some of 14 Q. 15 their allegations were inaccurate? Yes, in his opinion he did say that. 16 Α. 17 And what was their response to that? Q. 18 I think -- I'm trying to recall the Α. conversation. I believe their response was that they 19 20 felt the allegations were correct. And did he indeed address those issues? 21 Q. 22 Α. Yes. 23 And he provided you and the other Q. Commissioners with documentation to address those 24 25 issues?

- A. I believe he did.
- Q. Did there come a point in time then when you met with Steve Stoud and Maggie McNamara about the environment that they were working in and an opening in the District Attorney's office?
- A. I did talk to -- I know I talked to Maggie about that, I don't know if Steve was there or not.
- Q. And would it be accurate to say that you basically said, hey, Maggie, these two, Warren and Arnold, want to get rid of you, there's an opening in the DA's office, you should apply for it?
- A. No. I think my comment was, is that, you know, the situation at hand, there's only a few options; one, you can sit down with the two of them and try to work it out, figure out how to get something worked out so that it's, you know, works for everybody or there's a position in the District Attorneys' office, you can apply for that position. I can't guarantee you because I'm only one Commissioner, that things are going to change, get better or get worse.
 - Q. When you say work out, work out what?
- A. Work out the relationship that the other two Commissioners had with her as far as the

35 issues they had at hand. 1 And those issues were addressed with 2 Maggie through Steve Stoud, correct? 3 Right. Α. 4 How do you work out the Commissioners Q. 5 saying, you're having affair with your Supervisor? 6 MR. HAILSTONE: I object to the 7 You can answer, if you can. form. 8 THE WITNESS: Well, I think you 9 need to have a conversation between two 10 people. 1.1 BY MR. KARAM: 12 Wasn't it already said that that's just Q. 13 simply not true? Weren't they informed that it 14 wasn't true? 15 I object to the MR. HAILSTONE: 16 I object to putting facts in the 17 record that aren't in the record. I 18 don't think that it was ever asked 19 whether. 2.0 BY MR. KARAM: 21 Did you have knowledge that Arnold and Ο. 2.2 Warren were informed that this isn't true? 2.3 Well, I do know that both McNamara and Α. 2.4 Stoud said that, you know, that is incorrect. 25

	36
1	Q. Yet Arnold continued with the
2	insinuations?
3	A. Well, I don't know at the timing of it
4	as to how much continuation there was, if any.
5	Q. Do you recall in mid June, you
6	approaching Steve Stoud and saying that Commissioner
7	Arnold approached you and told you that she felt she
8	had to break them up in order to save Steve Stoud's
9	marriage?
10	A. That is true.
11	Q. And in mid June of 2016, she went on to
12	say, that if they're not having an affair, one's
13	going to happen?
14	A. I don't recall that.
15	Q. And did you tell her, Commissioner,
16	stop making statements like that?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. Did you tell her that it's wrong for
19	her to make statements like that?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. Did you tell her that it's going to get
22	us in a lawsuit if she continues to make statements
23	like that?
24	A. I would say, not quite to that level
25	but yes.

37 After that occurred, did you instruct 1 Ο. or advise Steve Stoud to the contact the CCAP 2 Attorney, to tell him, you know, what's happening? 3 I don't --Α. 4 MR. KARAM: We might as well put 5 this on the record, it was Mike Donohue 6 who, for the record, is in Jamie's 7 office who we have waived any conflict 8 issues and that's already been resolved 9 between Attorney Hailstone and myself. 10 THE WITNESS: I don't recall that. 11 BY MR. KARAM: 12 Do you recall ever talking to the Steve 13 Q. Stoud where he indicated, I talked to Mike Donohue 14 about this? 15 I don't recall Mike Donohue's name Α. 16 17 coming up. Now, it's mid July, 2016, and Steve 18 Q. Stoud, his position is still I believe the Chief 19 Clerk and he also held the position of Director of 20 Public Safety, correct? 2.1 Yes. 22 Α. And the salary he was receiving at the 23 Q. time was based on him doing both positions? 24 25 Α. Correct.

		38
1	Q.	And in mid July of 2016, do you recall
2	Commissioner	Warren approaching you with a desire to
3	eliminate the	e Director of Public Safety position?
4	А.	Her comment was that she didn't know if
5	we really nee	eded a full-time Public Safety Director.
6	Q.	But you didn't have a Full-Time Public
7	Safety Direct	cor because he was also Chief Clerk?
8	Α.	But we did when he first started.
9	Q.	But in July of 2016 he was performing
10	both duties?	
11	А.	Right.
12	Q.	So it would be impossible for him to be
13	doing Directo	or of Public Safety full-time?
14	Α.	Right.
15	Q.	By the way, do you know where Steve
16	Stoud's wife	
17	Α.	I don't think she works. She used to
18	work at the	
19	Q.	When did she leave the County, do you
20	recall?	
21	Α.	I can't recall. I think it was before
22	Mr. Stoud ca	me I can't recall.
23	Q.	So she
24	А.	She didn't work for the Commissioners.
25	Q.	But she knows a lot of the County

39 employees, would that be fair to say? 1 That would be fair to say. Α. October, 2016, there was an issue with Ο. 3 Commissioner Arnold and Steve Stoud regarding the scheduling of a Penn State appointment that resulted 5 in you and Commissioner Arnold and Mike Giangrecco 6 having an animated discussion about it, do you recall 7 8 that? Yes. Α. 9 Can you tell me about it? 0. 10 Apparently what I know, Commissioner Α. 11 Arnold went in to Mr. Stoud's office, there was a 12 confrontation that occurred. And I was not in the 1.3 It came back to office at the time or in the area. 14 me there was an issue. I met with our Solicitor, Mr. 15 Giangrecco, and talked to him. So the two of us 1.6 talked to Commissioner Arnold about protocol and 17 about the temperament of conversation. 18 Would it be fair to say that you and Q. 19 Solicitor Giangrecco indicated to Commissioner Arnold 20 that the way she was handling things was affecting 21 the entire Commissioners' staff? 22 That would be true. Α. 23 In a negative way, correct? Ο. 24 Correct. Α. 25

	40
1	Q. And she was told this?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And she was told to refrain from making
4	the comments she was making to Steve Stoud and
5	underlings for lack of a better term?
6	A. She was told to reframe from making the
7	comments and also going around his office and
8	breaking the chain of command.
9	Q. And do you recall Solicitor Giangrecco
10	drafting a letter to Commissioner Arnold?
11	A. Yes, I do.
12	Q. And what did that letter indicate?
13	A. If I recall in that letter, again it
14	was a letter telling her to cease and desist the way
15	she was handling things before it gets the County in
16	anymore trouble, and I was just paraphrasing, I can't
17	remember.
18	Q. Sure. How many letters did Mike
19	Giangrecco write to Commissioner Arnold telling her
20	that she has to stop this conduct?
21	A. I know of one. I don't know if there
22	was others. I do know of the one.
23	Q. If I told you that we believe there's
24	two.
25	A. There could be. I can't recall.

	41
1	MR. KARAM: Jamie, do you have
2	those?
3	MR. HAILSTONE: I only have one.
4	If there is another one, I don't have
5	it.
6	MR. KARAM: Would I be able to get
7	a copy of the one you have? Do you have
8	it with you?
9	MR. HAILSTONE: No.
10	BY MR. KARAM:
11	Q. Was Commissioner Arnold told both by
12	you and Giangrecco that her actions were harassing
13	and retaliatory?
14	A. I'd have to look at the letter I wrote
15	and the letter that he wrote to see what is in there.
16	I can't remember exactly.
17	Q. How about in your conversations with
18	her when you were telling her to stop, did you not
19	tell her, you're harassing him?
20	A. I don't think I used the word
21	harassing. I said that and I was pretty blunt:
22	You need to stop doing this immediately before we get
23	in more trouble.
24	Q. And can we assume that you felt you
25	were going to get in more trouble because what she

42 was doing was wrong, in your mind? 1 Yeah, correct. Α. Even if you didn't say it to her with Ο. 3 the knowledge that you have, would you believe her to 4 be harassing Steve Stoud? 5 MR. HAILSTONE: I object to the 6 form. 7 THE WITNESS: You're asking my 8 personal opinion? 9 MR. KARAM: Your personal opinion? 10 Well, definitely THE WITNESS: 11 Commonwealth Arnold and Commissioner 12 Warren have a different management style 13 than mine. 14 BY MR. KARAM: 1.5 Would you believe the course of conduct Ο. 16 that Commissioner Arnold pursued against Steve Stoud 17 was harassing in nature? 1.8 Same objection. MR. HAILSTONE: 19 THE WITNESS: You know, again, I 20 would say that my personality and my 2.1 experiences and the way I manage is 22 entirely different than the way they do. 23 What I think is acceptable and what I 2.4 think is not acceptable might be 25

43 entirely different to them. 1 BY MR. KARAM: 2 Was the way she handled things in the 3 Ο. workplace with Steve Stoud and Maggie McNamara 4 acceptable to you? 5 I wouldn't handled the things the way 6 Α. 7 she did. Could I take that to mean that it 8 wouldn't be acceptable to you? 9 Well, I wouldn't do it that way. Α. 10 Who's Lisa Kowalewski? 11 Ο. She was the IT Director at the County. Α. 1.2 And tell me what you know about Lisa Q. 13 Kowalewski and Steve Stoud? 14 Lisa was hired as the IT Director for 15 Α. the County, came in, went to work, things started out 16 She had some medical issues, had to take some 17 time off, came back. When she came back, there was a 18 difference in personality. And I remember that she 19 -- I didn't witness it. My understanding is that she 20 came into the office area and there was a big 21 confrontation in the Commissioners' office and 22 23 Mr. Stoud. And was the HR Director present when Ο. 2.4 this happened as well to your knowledge? 25

45 I hear that. 1 Did there come a point in time Q. 2 subsequent to November 3rd, 2016, and I'm submitting 3 that Kowalewski occurred on November 3rd, 2016. 4 there come a point from time when Kowalewski 5 retrieved all of the E-mails between Maggie McNamara 6 and Steve Stoud to your knowledge? 7 Yes. 8 Α. How did that occur? Ο. 9 Commissioner Warren and Commissioner Α. 10 Arnold wanted to know what was in those E-mails? 11 Why? Q. 12 I have no idea. I refrained and I 13 Α. I'm not involved in it. If you two want to 14 said: team up and do this, you're on your own. 15 I brought our Solicitor in and he told 16 them not to do it also. 17 Who was your Solicitor? Ο. 18 Michael Giangrecco. Α. 19 And so against your advice, against the Q. 20 Solicitor's advice, they decided to retrieve all 21 County E-mails between Maggie McNamara and Steve 22 Stoud? 23 Correct. Α. 24 Any other employees? Ο. 25

46 There has been others in the past but 1 Α. employees that have left the County. 2 But at this stage, did they want to 3 Q. retrieve any other employees besides Stoud and 4 5 McNamara? No. 6 Α. And then who did they contact to do 7 0. this? 8 That went through the -- I believe the Α. New Chief Clerk and I believe IT Director. 10 Ms. Kowalewski? 11 Q. Α. Yes. 12 And they did it? Q. 13 And they did it. Α. 14 And they found nothing? 15 Ο. My knowledge. Α. 16 And did there come a point in time when 17 Q. you became aware that Kowalewski was conducting her 18 own separate investigation into Steve Stoud? 19 Yes. 20 Α. Tell me what you know about that? Ο. 21 Apparently my understanding was, was 22 Α. that in getting the E-mails for the other two 23 Commissioners, she came across an E-mail about 24 something, and then started doing a background check 25

47 on Mr. Stoud which led to accusations of some 1 wrongdoing by Mr. Stoud. 2 That he was committing some type of 3 Q. fraud or kickback with a County Vendor? 4 That's correct. 5 Α. And Commissioner Arnold knew about 6 Ο. this, correct, knew about this private investigation 7 that Kowalewski was conducting? 8 All the Commissioners did. 9 Α. And knew about the allegations against 10 Ο. Steve Stoud that Kowalewski was making? 11 12 Α. Correct. Wasn't indeed Arnold part of that 13 0. 14 investigation, she was, you know, she was side-by-side with Kowalewski in conducting this 1.5 investigation? 16 That I do not know. 17 Α. Kowalewski was certainly keeping her up 18 0. to date on everything she was doing though? 19 If she was, it wasn't to my knowledge. 20 Α. And as a result of this investigation, 21 0. it was brought to the District Attorney's attention 22 2.3 of Susquehanna County? Correct. 24 Α. And at the time Steve Stoud was the 25 Q.

48 1 Director of Public Safety in Susquehanna County and a 2 part-time County Detective? 3 Α. Correct. 4 Ο. And because the Commissioners now, 5 not you, but the other two, brought this to the 6 attention of the District Attorney's office, Steve 7 Stoud was suspended by the District Attorney's office 8 in his position as County Detective. 9 I'd have to check with the District Α. 10 Attorney's office, I don't recall. 11 I'm saying that he was. 0. 12 So are you familiar with what the 13 results of this investigation were? 14 Α. Yes. 15 What were they? Ο. 16 Α. That it was unfounded. That the 17 information that was there had to deal with something 18 many years ago and it wasn't with him. It was his 19 son I believe it was, some business or something that 20 That there was nothing there which resulted 21 in the IT Director being terminated. 2.2 Who voted on the IT Director being 0. 2.3 terminated? 2.4 Α. That was a decision made by the Chief 25 Clerk, the HR Director and the three Commissioners.

49 Attorney Robin Reed was the CCAP 0. 1 Attorney at one point? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Did she come in at any point in time 4 0. and tell Commissioner Arnold, you need to treat 5 6 Stoud a little more professionally? 7 Α. Yes. McNamara takes the job in the DA's Ο. 8 9 office, right? Α. Yes. 10 After she took the job in the DA's 11 Ο. office, were the Commissioners continuing to complain 12 about her? 13 My understanding, there was comments 14 Α. with the District Attorney, and I wasn't privy what 15 16 was going on with that. (At this time there was a brief 17 discussion held off the record.) 18 MR. KARAM: For the record, the 19 caption is Robert Stoud but he is 20 commonly called Steve, so for the 21 22 purposes of the deposition we are calling him Steve. 23 (At this time there was a brief 2.4 25 recess taken.)

BY MR. KARAM:

- Q. Commissioner, did there ever come a point where you were so concerned about the conduct of Commissioner Arnold towards Steve Stoud or Maggie McNamara that you ended up writing her a letter?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And what did you say in that letter?
- A. Oh boy, I can't recall the exact wording, but the gist of it was, she needed to follow the chain of command, needed to be professional.
- Q. Did part of it talk about the County can't run if a Commissioner doesn't communicate with the Chief Clerk, I'm paraphrasing?
- A. I think what was in that one was, we have 8:15 briefing every morning, part of that was telling her that she needed to at the 8:15 briefing because she wasn't coming in, and in order for the Commissioners to know what was going on and to give direction to the Chief Clerk and the people that need direction can't do if you're not there. And I think it went on to say that she needed to communicate with the Chief Clerk because he is the person in charge of running the County.
- Q. And was she refusing to communicate with the Chief Clerk at that point?

51 1 Α. I would say pretty much, yes. 2 And do you believe that was because of 0. 3 her personal animus against the Chief Clerk? 4 I don't know her exact feelings but I Α. 5 know she was not communicating with him. 6 Ο. And would the Chief Clerk not being 7 able to communicate with one of the Commissioners, in 8 your opinion would that hamper the Chief Clerk's 9 ability to do his job to his fullest extent? 10 Well, it makes it more difficult when Α. all three are not informed and on the same page. 11 12 mean, you don't expect all the Commissioners to agree 13 all the time. 14 MR. KARAM: Jamie, would I be able 1.5 to get a copy of that, a copy of these 16 letters for tomorrow? 17 MR. HAILSTONE: I can bring them 18 with me. And when you were asking 19 earlier about two letters from Mike 20 Giangrecco. And I think what the 21 confusion was, there's one from Mike and 22 one from Commissioner Hall. I don't 23 think there's two from Mike. I will go 24 back and check. I only have one. 25 BY MR. KARAM:

52 1 0. Did you write any other letters? 2 I can't recall. I know there was one. Α. 3 I don't know if there was a second or not, there may 4 have been two, I don't know. 5 Q. Maggie McNamara and Steve Stoud filed 6 an EEOC Complaint, I believe it was September 2016, 7 around, I could be wrong about that, and I know you 8 don't want to use the words harassing or retaliatory. 9 Did the improper conduct towards Steve 10 Stoud and Maggie McNamara continue after they filed 11 their EEOC Complaint? 12 Α. Correct. 13 0. And is it fair to say that Arnold and 14 Warren were not happy with what Stoud and McNamara 15 were saying, that they were working in a hostile work 16 environment and being retaliated against? 17 I can't recall the exact conversations Α. 18 on that. 19 Q. When you would confront Arnold about 2.0 doing -- about improperly dealing with Stoud, what 21 was her response? 22 Α. I'm a Commissioner, I'll do what I want 23 to do. 24 О. Did you talk to her that she was 25 exposing the County to unnecessary litigation?

53 I object to the 1 MR. HAILSTONE: 2 form. 3 BY MR. KARAM: 4 Q. Did you warn her that she's exposing 5 the County to a lawsuit and hostile work environment complaints and retaliation complaints. 6 7 Α. I warned her that her actions could 8 lead to legal liabilities for the County. 9 Q. And what was her response to that? 10 Α. She really didn't say much to me. 11 She didn't say much to you? Q. 12 Α. No. 13 Ο. How do you get along with Commissioner 14 Arnold? 15 Hot and cold. Α. 16 And now I'm going to get into a little Q. 17 bit of politics because I don't understand much of 18 it up there. 19 When you run as a Commissioner, I know 2.0 the first time you ran you said you ran on your own? 21 Α. Yes. 22 Q. The next time you ran, did you run as a 23 team? 24 Α. No. 25 You always run on your own? Q.

54 1 Α. Yes. 2 Historically in Susquehanna County, is Q. 3 that how it's been, people running on their own for 4 Commissioner? 5 Α. Yes. 6 MR. KARAM: That's it. 7 MR. HAILSTONE: No questions. 8 I just want to clarify on the 9 record, that I represent the Defendants, 10 Susquehanna County. I don't remember 11 Commissioner Hall outside of his 12 position as Commissioner. And the 13 statements he made today, personal 14 opinions, don't reflect on the 15 Defendant, Susquehanna County. 16 MR. KARAM: Well, I disagree, that it doesn't reflect on the Defendant, 17 18 Susquehanna County, but I agree that 19 Jamie is here just representing the 20 County of Susquehanna, Susquehanna 21 County. 22 23 (At this time the deposition 24 in the above-captioned matter 25 was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

I, Kathleen Hughes, a Notary Public in and for Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that the deposition was reported in machine shorthand by me, that the said witness was duly sworn/affirmed by me, that the transcript was prepared by me or under my supervision and constitutes a complete and accurate record of same.

I further certify that I am not an attorney or counsel of any parties, nor a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel connected with action, nor financially interested in the action.

KATHIEFN HIGHER

KATHLEEN HUGHES
KEYSTONE COURT REPORTING AGENCY, INC.
4099 BIRNEY AVENUE, SUITE 9
MOOSIC, PENNSYLVANIA 18507